

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member in which a band-shaped tire component member having a given width is affixed on a peripheral face of a rotatable drum made of a rigid material at a given length range and over a given angle range, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a traveling head moving forward and rearward in an axial direction of ~~[[a]]the~~ drum is arranged at an outer peripheral side of ~~[[a]]the~~ drum, and a clamp ~~means~~ is independently arranged from the traveling head for pushing a front end portion of a tire component member protruded ahead from the traveling head on the peripheral face of the drum at a forward moving state of the traveling head, and a ~~cutting means for cutter which cuts~~ the tire component member that is on the drum is arranged at one end side of the drum separated away from the clamp ~~means~~ relative to the axial direction of the drum, and a guide ~~means~~ specifying a widthwise position of the tire component member and a chuck ~~means~~ pulling out the tire component member to the clamp ~~means~~ under a forward displacement of the traveling head are arranged in the traveling head.

2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, which further comprises ~~means for applying a tensioner which applies a~~ tension to the tire component member.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, wherein at least the chuck ~~means~~ ~~is made possible to displace near to~~ disposed to be displaced to a position near a center axial line of the drum.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, wherein a ~~pushing means~~ pusher capable of pushing the tire component member onto the peripheral face of the drum accompanied with the rearward displacement of the traveling head is arranged on the traveling head.

5. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, which further comprises a guide rail supporting the traveling head and guiding the forward and rearward displacement thereof.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, wherein the ~~cutting means~~ cutter is constructed with a fixed shear blade arranged over a full periphery of an end of the drum and a movable shear blade located in correspondence to the fixed shear blade.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, wherein the ~~cutting means~~ cutter is a rotational cutting blade or an ultrasonic vibration cutting blade.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for affixing a tire component member according to claim 1, which further comprises an ~~affixing means~~ pushing affixer which pushes a side portion of the tire component member affixed on the peripheral face of the drum onto the peripheral face of the drum or the adjoining tire component member over a full length of the tire component member.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of affixing a tire component member using an apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~in which a band-shaped tire component member having a given width is affixed on a peripheral face of a rotatable drum made of a rigid material at a given length range and over a given angle range, characterized in that, wherein~~ the tire component

member is affixed in ~~[[an]]the~~ axial direction of ~~[[a]]the~~ drum while pushing ~~[[a]]the~~ front end portion of the tire component member onto ~~[[a]]the~~ peripheral face of the drum by ~~means of a the~~ clamp~~means~~, and after the completion of one affixing, the tire component member is cut at a position corresponding to an ~~axis~~axial end of the drum, and then a front end portion of a next tire component member is pulled out to a position of the clamp~~means~~ through a forward displacement of ~~[[a]]the~~ traveling head while turning the drum over an angle range corresponding to the width of the tire component member, and thereafter these operations are repeated.

10. (Original) A method of affixing a tire component member according to claim 9, wherein the tire component member is affixed on the drum so as to overlap at a given amount in the widthwise direction.

11. (Previously Presented) A method of affixing a tire component member according to claim 9, wherein the affixing number of the tire component member having a constant width is changed in accordance with a designation of a rim size for the tire.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of affixing a tire component member according to claim 9, wherein the front end portion of the tire component member is pulled out to the position of the clamp~~means~~.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of affixing a tire component member according to claim 9, wherein the tire component member is affixed onto the peripheral face of the drum, after the completion of one affixing step of the tire component member and before the start of the cutting step, the affixed rear end of the tire component member is closely adhered to the peripheral face of the drum.